

# Nursing Education and the Black Nurse . . . An Overview

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## OPSOMMING

In 1908 registreer Cecilia Makiwane as die eerste Swart professionele verpleegster. Op 31 Desember 1977 is 18 362 Swart verpleegsters by die S.A. Verpleegstersraad geregistreer.

Dit is egter eers sedert die totstandkoming van die S.A. Verpleegstersraad in 1944, dat verplegingsonderwys vir Swart mense begin momentum kry. Vanaf 1940 tot 1977 vermeerder die getal opleidingskole vir Swart algemene verpleegstudente van 17 na 71 en vir vroedvroue van 5 na 60. Daar is 6 skole vir psigiatriese verpleegstudente in 1977.

Op 31 Desember 1977 is 6,3% van Swart studente wat daardie jaar vir die eerste keer met algemene en psigiatriese opleiding begin, in besit van 'n St. X kwalifikasie. Die slaagpersentasie vir die Raad se eindeksamens handhaaf 'n stygende lyn en uitstekende resultate (74%-80% slaag) word oor die algemeen sedert 1966 behaal.

Ingeskrewe verpleegsters vul die getal verplegingspraktisyne aan. Aan die einde van 1977 is daar 13 300 op die rolle van die S.A. Verpleegstersraad.

Sedert 1971 word Swart studente vir die B. Cur. (I et A)-graad en die Diplomas in Verplegingsonderwys en Verplegingsadministrasie, aan die Universiteit van die Noorde opgelei. 81 Dip. V.O's, 65 Dip. V.A.'s en 15 grade is tot datum verkry. Sedert 1976 registreer groot getalle Swart studente vir verplegingskursusse by die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika. In 1978 is die getal 769, of 50% van die totaal vir hierdie kursusse. Die eerste Hon. B.A. (Cur.-graad is vanjaar (1978) deur hierdie Universiteit aan 'n Swart verpleegster toegeken.

**I**N 1907, Cecilia Makiwane passed the final examination for general nurses of the Cape Colonial Medical Council, and on 7 January 1908 became the first Black registered professional nurse in South Africa (1:269). On 31 December 1977 there were 18 362 Black nurses on the registers of the South African Nursing Council<sup>3</sup>.

At the time when a new Health Act (63/1977) and a new Nursing Act (50/1978) have been promulgated, and "Curationis" makes its début, it is well to look at the highlights of the development of nursing education for Blacks during the past 70 years.

## THE PERIOD FROM ± 1850 TO 1944

The history of nursing education for Blacks is an integral part of our nursing history as a whole, and of the development of our health services generally. The first organised health service for Blacks was started in the Grahamstown area in 1850 by missionaries (1:77) and the first civilian hospital for Black people (also for indigent Whites) was established at King Williams Town in 1856 (1:125-7).

Briefly, some important events in the early history of our nursing education, which also have a bearing on our subject, are:

- 1810: 1-year course, for midwives (White and non-White\*) started at the Cape by Dr. J.H.F.C.K. Wehr (1:107-8).
- 1869: Ellen Parsons starts first rudimentary training of Black nurse-aides at Greys Hospital, King Williams Town (1:131-3).
- 1877: Sr. Henrietta Stockdale commences first professional training course in Kimberley (1:140).
- 1891: Cape Colonial Act 34/1891 provides for (voluntary) registration of midwives and nurses (first country in the world) (1:164).
- 1893: Revival of organised midwifery training — Sr. Mary Hirst Watkins, Kimberley (1:106).
- 1898: Experimental training scheme for Black nurses commenced at Lovedale Mission Hospital, Cape Colony (1:265).
- 1902: Lovedale Mission Hospital introduces a 3-year course for a hospital certificate (1:268).
- 1907: Cecilia Makiwane registers with Cape Colonial Medical Council.
- 1914: S.A. Trained Nurses' Association formed.

\*In spite of persistent efforts of nurse-leaders in the S.A. Trained Nurses' Association and members of the Bantu Nurses' Association (formed 1932 (1:273) to promote facilities and opportunities for training Black professional nurses, progress was very slow. In 1928, the year when the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act (13/1928) brought nursing education and registration under the control of the Medical Council, non-Whites were admitted to only 5 schools for nurses and 3 for midwives (2:65).

In 1927 the first Black nurse, Beatrice Msimeng was registered dually as nurse and midwife (1:272) and in 1931 Ramasolo Paul Tsae became the first male registered nurse (1:273).

Between 1924 and 1940, the number of schools for non-White nurses and midwives increased from 5 to 17 and 3 to 5 respectively (2:65). By 1942, 106 Black nurses had passed the final general and 127 the final midwifery examinations (1:127); it is not recorded whether they were all ever registered, or still on the registers at that date. Some probably had dual registrations, so these figures may represent, perhaps, 200 persons.

The figures for Black hospital-certificated nurses, of whom quite a number must have been trained and employed over the years, are not known. However, as against a total known population at the 1936 census of 6 595 597 Blacks\*\* (4:A-5), the number of Black nursing professionals available to render services to their own people was pitifully inadequate and the largest part of the burden, both of service and of nursing education, was for many decades to come to be carried by Whites, assisted in the service situation by non-registered personnel.

By 1940 just after the outbreak of World War II, the position regarding nursing education and service for and by Black people was as follows:

\*In this paper the term non-White is used when it appears so in original sources or more accurate identification is not possible.

\*\*Figure probably not accurate — many Blacks not reached by census.

Population to be served: ± 7 000 000

Hospital beds: ± 23 000 (1:275)

Black registered persons: ± 200

Training schools, non-White: General 17  
: Midwifery 5

Length of training: General: 3.5 years Class I schools, 4.5 years Class II schools.

Midwifery: 6 months — registered nurses

12 months — unregistered persons

Between 1940 and 1950, several factors contributed to the need for an increase in nurse-training programmes for Black nurses, i.e.: accelerated migration of Black people to urban areas, creating an urgent need for improved health care facilities and the appropriate personnel to staff them; an acute shortage of White registered and student nurses, owing to a drain to the military services and into the expanding, attractive career opportunities for women in the private sector; the gradual improvement in secondary school facilities for Black pupils.

By 1945, the time was over-ripe for accelerating the training of Black nurses. The Nursing Act (45/1944); the declared policy (since 1948) of the South African government, of separate development for all races; and the establishment, between 1945 and 1948, of Provincial Departments of Hospital services, with appointment of senior nurses to the Head Offices — these set the scene for action.

#### THE PERIOD FROM 1944 — DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

By the Nursing Act (45/1944), a statutory control of the profession was vested in a South African Nursing Council. For both nursing education and service, the achievement of professional autonomy has been one of the most significant events since 1940. The Council has consistently and systematically updated and improved regulations for basic courses, and introduced a number of new basic and post-registration courses.

#### Basic Qualifications

In 1944, the S.A. Nursing Council took over from the S.A. Medical and Dental Council the existing regulations for training general nurses, midwives, mental nurses and nurses for mental defectives. The most important changes which have been brought about since then are briefly the following:

##### (a) Standard of Education

In 1944, this was still St. VII. The Council raised it to St. VIII for midwives in 1949, general nurses in 1953, and psychiatric nurses (a new course eventually replacing the courses for mental and mental defective nursing) in 1954. St X was required by the 1960 amended regulations, but this was never enforced because matrons could at their discretion (which became the practice) admit students with a lower standard. Some even went back to St. VII. Only as from 1970, only those without St. X who are either registered, or enrolled before 2/11/1977 (since extended), may still be accepted for basic training courses.

##### (b) Contents of Curricula

Curricula have regularly (and in some cases at short intervals) been revised and updated, in order to prepare professional nurses for their extending role in our health services. Social, biological and natural sciences were



introduced from 1953, and since 1969 there is increasing emphasis on promotive and preventive health care.

(c) **Length of training**

The general course was reduced from 3,5 to 3 years, midwifery was increased from the original 6 and 12 months, first to 9 and 12 months (1949) and later to 12 and 24 months (1960). The courses for mental and mental defective nursing were reduced from 3,5 each to 3 years. (Exemption from part of each course, given to nurses registered in the alternate capacity, reduced the time for acquiring both registrations to 4 years.

(d) **New courses**

- (i) In 1954 regulations were promulgated for a 3-year course for registration as a psychiatric nurse. The first students for this course, however, only registered in 1965 (3(i)). In 1968 the Department of Health closed down their training schools for mental and mental defective nursing (5(iii)). The first training school for Black nurses for the latter two qualifications commenced in 1956.
- (ii) **Enrolled Auxiliary Nurses.\*** In 1948 Provincial Regulations in the Transvaal, Cape Province and Natal for the training and examination of Non-European Nursing Auxiliaries and/or Auxiliary Midwives, replaced the old hospital certification of this category. The Nursing Act of 1957 (69/57) provided for their enrolment with the S.A. Nursing Council, and Council regulations for a 1,5-year course were promulgated in 1963. In 1970 the course was extended to 2 years. In 1972 regulations for a 6-month course for enrolment as an **Assistant Nurse** (required by Nursing Amendment Act No. 50 of 1972) were promulgated.

- (iii) Regulations for 3,5-year courses for registration as a general nurse and midwife, and a general nurse and psychiatric nurse, were promulgated in 1969 and 1972 respectively, and for a 4-year course for general, midwifery and psychiatric nursing in 1970 (only one White training school was ever registered for this course, and the Regulations have recently been withdrawn). The 1975 amended Regulations for registration as a general nurse and midwife make provision for an optional course of 6 months for registration as a psychiatric nurse, and those for the general and psychiatric course for a similar course for registration as a midwife, on certain conditions which must be complied with during the 3,5 year courses.

**Implementation of Changes and Achievements**

From the time of the Colonial Medical Councils till today, South African nurses of all races have written the same examinations for registration. As regulations and syllabuses have been amended, or promulgated for new basic or post-registration courses, White, Black, Coloured and Indian nurses have followed the same road towards registration or (since 1957) enrolment, whether side by side or in single file. Control by a statutory body ensures that as hospitals are recognised as training schools, minimum standards as laid down in the Council's regulations for the particular course(s) for which they are recognised, are adhered to.

The degree to which the training of Black nurses has increased is reflected in Tables I and II.

\*This designation was removed in 1972.

**TABLE I**  
NUMBER OF APPROVED TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NON-WHITE STUDENT NURSES AND STUDENT MIDWIVES DURING YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (2:65; 5(i)-(v))

Type of School	1940	1965	1970	1974
General Nursing*	17	35	54	71
Midwifery*	5	34	41	60
Psychiatric Nursing*	—	2	5	6
Mental Nursing	—	11	—	—
Mental Defective N.	—	1	—	—

\* Includes the combined 3,5 year and optional courses

**TABLE II**  
NUMBER OF BLACK STUDENT NURSES (M+F) ON THE REGISTERS IN THE YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3:5(i),(v))

Category	1960	1965	1973	1976	1977
General Nurse	2312	3045	3167	4151	4067
Midwife	*	635	1059	1133	1272
Psychiatric Nurse	—	—	101	151	168
Genl. N.&Midwife	—	—	3	449	708**
Genl. N.&Psych.N.	—	—	—	6	12
Mental Nurse	93	*	*	—	—

\*Figure not to hand. \*\*Includes 5 males

The effect, on recruitment of students for the general and psychiatric courses, of the prescribing of St. X as an admission requirement, is reflected in Table III. (Figures prior to 1976 are not to hand).

**TABLE III**  
STANDARD OF EDUCATION OF FIRST REGISTRATIONS — BLACK STUDENT NURSES (M+F)  
REGISTERING FOR THE YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3)

Year	Category	Not registered or enrolled		Registered	% of Total	Enrolled	% of Total	GRAND TOTAL
		St. X*	% of TOTAL					
1976	General Nurse	655	45,4	66	4,6	721	50,0	1442
	Psychiatric N	32	32,3	66	66,7	1	1	99
	Total	687	44,6	132	8,5	722	46,9	1541
1977	General Nurse	1278	63,1	28	1,4	718	35,5	2024
	Psychiatric N	112	54,1	95	45,9	—	—	207
	Total	1390	62,3	123	5,5	718	32,2	2231

\*No students with more than St. X were registered.

There are two ways in which the success of nursing education programmes may be evaluated: (a) from examination results and the growth of registrations and enrolments, and (b) from the contributions made by registered persons toward professional growth and development in the preparation of future professionals, and in the health services of their country.

Table IV reflects the results of the final examinations for the three basic professional categories.

**TABLE IV**  
RESULTS OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF NON-WHITE/BLACK NURSES  
FOR YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3(ii))

Category		1933	1940	1950	1961	1966	1970	1977
General Nurse	Pass	6	41	154	484	831	870	1341
	Fail	—	7	272	367	221	306	334
	Total	6	48	426	851	1052	1176	1675
% Pass		100	85,4	36,2	56,9	80,0	74,0	80,0
Midwife	Pass	25	31	148	333	399	780	985
	Fail	5	20	157	87	99	39	90
	Total	30	51	305	420	498	819	1075
% Pass		83,3	60,8	48,5	79,2	85,8	95,2	91,6
Psychiatric Nurse	Pass	—	—	—	—	4	30	169
	Fail	—	—	—	—	4	19	56
	Total	—	—	—	—	8	49	225
% Pass		—	—	—	—	50,0	61,2	75,1

#### Registration

The increase in the number of registrations, since the beginning of the century, is reflected in Table V, and an analysis of the capacities in which these nurses were registered is set out in Table VI.

**TABLE V**  
NUMBER OF BLACK NURSES REGISTERED IN YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (1:278:3(i))

1909	1929	1959	1960	1965	1969	1977
1	34	4633	5147	8624	11 244	18 362

**TABLE VI**  
CAPACITIES IN WHICH BLACK NURSES (M+F) WERE REGISTERED IN YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3(i))

Individual Registrations	1960	1969	1974	1977
General Nurse only	2 020	2 330	3 106	2 586
Midwife only	592	1 692	1 636	287
Psychiatric nurse only	—	346	442	428
General Nurse & Midwife	2 535	6 817	10 076	12 874
General Nurse & Psych. N.	—	18	88	156
Psychiatric Nurse & Midwife	—	1	2	1
Genl. N., Psych. N. & Midwife	—	40	300	674
Midwife and enrolled nurse	—	—	—	1 313
Psychiatric N. and Enrolled nurse	—	—	—	35
Psych. N. Midwife & Enrolled N	—	—	—	1
Midwife & Nursing Assistant	—	—	—	5
Psych. N. & Nursing Assistant	—	—	—	2
<b>TOTAL PERSONS REGISTERED</b>	<b>5 147</b>	<b>11 244</b>	<b>15 650</b>	<b>18 362</b>

Table VI reflects a significant decline of the singly registered midwife, and a very considerable increase in the dual registration of general nurse and midwife. This, as well as a substantial percentage increase (albeit numbers are yet small) in triply qualified nurses, is an encouraging sign for the services to be rendered by nurses in our expanding comprehensive health services. (N.B. Not all persons on the registers are practising).

**Enrolment**

“No country can afford to staff all its services on fully registered nurses. This is economically undesirable and wasteful of skilled personnel. Dilution is an absolute necessity” (1:261)

Table VII reflects the growth in enrolment of nurses since 1960.

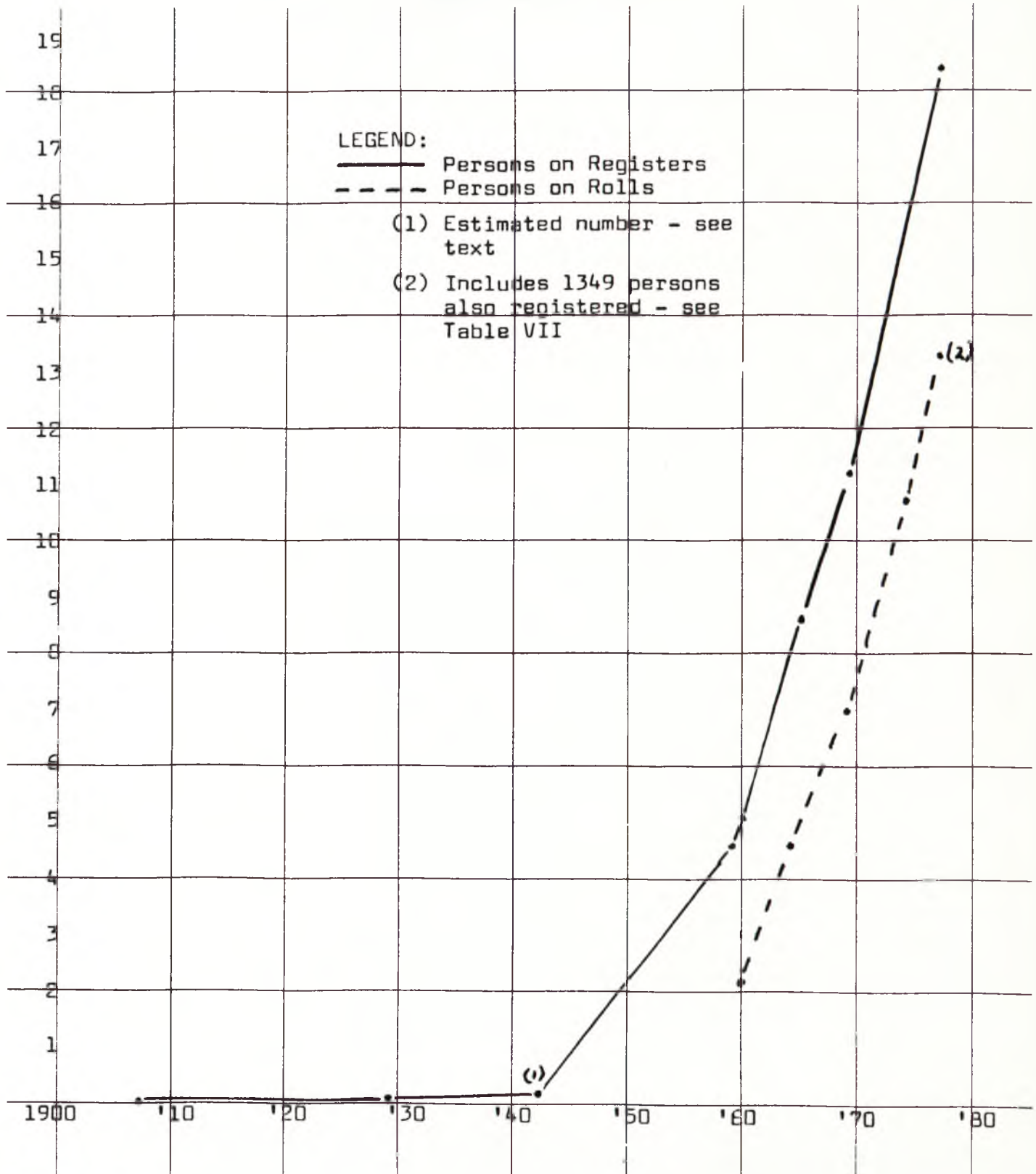
**TABLE VII**  
NUMBER AND CAPACITIES OF ENROLMENT OF BLACK NURSES IN YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3(i))

Individual Enrolments	1960	1964	1969	1974	1977
Enrolled only	1 610	4 607	6 971	10 624	11 931
Enrolled Midwife only	22	—	—	89	11
Enrolled Nurse & Midwife	577	20	11	8	7
Registered Midwife & Enrolled N.	—	—	—	—	1 313*
Reg. Psych. N. & Enrolled Nurse	—	—	—	—	35*
Reg. Psych. N. Midwife & Enr. N.	—	—	—	—	1*
Enrolled Midwife & Nurse Assist.	—	—	—	—	2
<b>TOTAL PERSONS ENROLLED</b>	<b>2 209</b>	<b>4 627</b>	<b>6 982</b>	<b>10 721</b>	<b>13 300</b>

\* Also reflected in Table VI

Figure 1 represents growth in registrations and enrolments up to 1977

**FIGURE 1:  
PROGRESSION, IN THOUSANDS, OF  
REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT OF BLACK  
NURSES — 1900 TO 1977**





### Post-Registration Qualifications

Already at the beginning of the century, the need was felt for courses to equip nurses for specialisation in a particular field of practice. The steadily increasing complexity, after World War II, of medical treatment and consequently of nursing care, aggravated this need. The S.A. Nursing Council, besides taking over and from time to time amending courses existing in 1944, has consistently introduced training regulations for new courses, which in a number of cases were

first started for Provincial Certificates, registrable with the Council.

The number and nature of these courses, dates of first introduction, the extent to which Black nurses have availed themselves of post-registration training as courses have become available, and the number of approved training schools for Black nurses as at the end of 1974 is reflected in Table VIII.

**TABLE VIII**  
NUMBER AND NATURE OF REGISTERED ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS HELD BY BLACK NURSES (Registrations, not persons) IN YEARS ENDING 31 DECEMBER (3:(ii);5:(v))

Type of course	Year Commenced	Number of Registrations					Approved Schools 1974
		1960	1964	1969	1974	1977	
<b>Diplomas</b>							
Nursing Education (Tutors)	1935	—	18	49	106	218	3
Nursing Administration	1951	—	—	2	26	144	5
Clinical Care, Administration and Instruction	1956	—	—	228	567	815	9
Health Visitor & School Nurse	{ 1925 }	142	236	330	586*	779*	5
Public Health Nursing	{ 1965 }						
Intensive Care Nursing	1965	—	—	7	76	160	5
Operating Theatre Technique	1953	4	39	142	366	569	11
Ophthalmic Nursing	1955	8	25	62	121	148	3
Paediatric Nursing	1952	—	1	26	146	251	5
Psychiatric Nurse Instructor	1965	—	—	6	27	50	2
<b>Certificates</b>							
District Nursing	1958	—	—	—	—	1	0
Fever Nursing	1922	1	4	4	3	3*	
Mothercraft	1924	—	—	—	38	130	1
Obstetric Analgesia & Resuscitation	1949	9	52	69	91	68*	
Psychiatric & Neurological Nursing (discontinued '68)	1952	—	—	—	—	1	

\*Training no longer given; no further registration will be done.

### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR NURSES

From 1935 to 1956, only the Diploma in Nursing (Education) (Sister Tutors) was offered, at White universities. In 1956, the first students for a basic degree (B.A. (Nursing), now B. Cur.) were admitted to a university (Pretoria), thereby realising the long-cherished dreams of the profession, since the days of the S.A.T.N.A. (1:307).

To qualify for admission to a university, nurses are required to have a Matriculation exemption, or in some cases at least an acceptable Senior Certificate (St. X). As the majority of nurses, until a few years ago, came into the basic courses with only St. VIII, it is small wonder that for many years so few presented themselves for the Diploma in Nursing Education courses, and that it took so long for degree courses to become established, or accepted by the profession.

Gradually, at first painfully, by private or extra-mural studies, nurses have attained St. X certificates. The introduction of the basic course gave impetus to a growing realisation that higher academic qualifications for nurses were in future going to be a strong recommendation, if not a requirement, for professional advancement. From the middle 1950's increasing numbers of nurses registered for existing extra-mural or teletuition degree courses, and since 1967 also for

post-registration nursing degrees.

A large share of the credit for this "upward mobility" towards the highest academic qualifications must go to those nurse-leaders who in the 1950's, either in a personal or in an official capacity, by motivating, inspiring, cajoling and nagging senior and junior nurses all over the country, and by lobbying influential persons as well as authorities, gave the impetus which by its ripple effect has set the profession on this exacting but rewarding course.

Apart from the basic nursing degrees, now offered at 9 universities, since 1967 post-graduate Honours, Masters' and Doctorate courses are available. In 1968, a post-registration degree course, the B. Cur. (I et A) was introduced, enabling nurses who have not had the benefit of qualifying by a basic degree, to register for post-graduate studies, while at the same time registering an additional qualification in Nursing Education (I = "Instructionis") and Nursing Administration (A = "Administrationis") with the S.A. Nursing Council.

The Diploma in Nursing Education course, started in 1936 at Cape Town University, has always been open to non-White students. The course started at the University of Natal

in 1956, was for many years offered to White and Black nurses in alternate years. By 1960, however, no Black Sister Tutor, was registered with the S.A. Nursing Council. (1:279). The limiting factor was, again, the standard of education.

In 1961, a 2-year course for a Provincial Tutor's Diploma, registrable with the S.A. Nursing Council, was given at the Baragwanath College of Nursing. In 1963, the (then) University College of the North, after negotiations with the T.P.A. and in affiliation with the University of Pretoria, accepted 9 carefully selected Black nurse students from Transvaal hospitals (only one of whom had an acceptable St. X certificate.), for a 2-year pilot course, with one semester at the University and 18 months at the Kalafong College of Nursing. Seven students obtained the Diploma. The University was, however, not prepared to continue the experiment until such time as applicants with at least an acceptable Senior Certificate, and better facilities for presenting a course fulltime at Turfloop, were available.

This goal was reached in 1971, when the first Department of Nursing at a Black University was established at the (now) University of the North. To date 81 candidates have obtained the Diploma in Nursing Education (started 1971); 65 have obtained the Diploma in Nursing Administration (started 1972); and 15 have obtained the degree B.Cur. (I et A).

The first Diplomas in Nursing Administration were, however, obtained by 19 students at the Kalafong College of Nursing, where a 2-year course for the Council's regulations

was started in 1971. Since then, the number of Provincial schools for this course has increased to 3 (5:(v)).

Two of the diplomates of the 1963-64 pilot course at the University College of the North, Mrs. M. Kau and Miss L.D. Makgopela, subsequently obtained an ordinary B.A. degree. In the 1971-73 academic years, Miss Makgopela studied for a Master's Degree in Nursing at the University of Connecticut., U.S.A.

#### TELETUITION FOR NURSING QUALIFICATIONS

One of the most exciting and far-reaching events of the present decade is undoubtedly the establishment, in 1975, of the Department of Nursing at the University of South Africa.

At the 1972 S.A. Nursing Association Congress for White nurses in Port Elizabeth, the author had introduced a motion, which was carried with a large majority, requesting the Board of the Association to approach the University of South Africa regarding the institution of post-registration degree and diploma courses for nurses. Only three years later, this goal was reached. The first students registered in 1976, and this year, 1978, the first Honours B.A. (Cur.) degree of this University has been conferred on a Black nurse, Mrs. Doreen Baartman, who in 1976 was one of the 5 first graduates of the University of the North.

The importance and value of the Unisa nursing courses may be judged from the number of registrations as at 30 March 1978:

Course	Students Registered				TOTAL
	White	Black	Coloured	Indian	
Diploma in Advanced Nursing Science	83	60	4	1	148
B.A. (Cur.)	588	705	43	20	1 356
Honours B.A. (Cur.)	3	4	—	—	7
Doctorate	5	—	—	—	5
GRAND TOTAL					1 516 (7)

For the hundreds of South African nurses who, for domestic, geographical or other reasons, are unable to attend residential or extra-mural universities, the doors to nursing degrees and diplomas are now open, and the nurses are pouring in.

#### PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

In 1933, a Black nurse was appointed to a Sister's post (8:12). In 1958, Miss Harriet Shezi became the first Black Assistant Matron, in a Transvaal Provincial Hospital (1:276). Today, the majority of hospitals and sections of hospitals for Black people, as well as non-institutional health services, urban and rural, are staffed either entirely or almost entirely by Black registered and enrolled nurses. A number of post-registration qualifications are held by Black nurses in top administrative and teaching posts.

The establishment of independent Homelands and Ter-

ritories and the re-organisation, from 1970, of the Homelands health services by the Department of Health acting on behalf of the Department of Bantu Administration and Development (now Department of Plural Relations)<sup>9</sup>, has given a tremendous impetus to opening up career opportunities for Black nurses. In the independent Territories, this is escalating. In 1977, 23 out of 29 Matrons' posts in Transkei which were filled (2 were vacant) were held by Black nurses (10;21-2), a number of whom had a Diploma in Nursing Administration or in Nursing Education. Organizers (or their Deputies/Assistants) of Nursing Services in



Transkei, Bophuthatswana and in the majority of Homelands are Black nurses. Black Sister Tutors and Ward Sisters have for a number of years been successfully preparing candidates for the Council's examinations. A Black nurse holds a post as Lecturer at the University of the North, and the first Black Sister Tutor in charge of a College of Nursing in Lebowa was appointed in 1978.

But the battle is only half won. The ratio of Black nurses to projected population as at 30 June 1974, was:

Registered persons	1:1 178
Enrolled persons	1:1 720
Registered and enrolled persons	1: 725
Enrolled Nursing Assistants	1:1 270
TOTAL	1: 462 (3:(ii))

To date lack of facilities has prevented the institution of a basic degree course for Black nurses. This must be regarded as top priority.

#### CONCLUSION

In a paper of this nature, it is possible only to touch on a few aspects of the history of nursing education for Black

nurses. The nursing service aspects of our health care systems, which is a subject in itself, have only been cursorily mentioned.

There are gaps in our present knowledge which need to be filled in and updated. There is a whole field of research opportunities lying fallow. This is the challenge which now faces the graduate and post-graduate Black nurse in Southern Africa.

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